

December 8, 2015

Vanessa Quinn, Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch
Technological Hazards Division
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1800 South Bell Street
Arlington, VA 20598-3025

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM SOUTHERN NUCLEAR COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO
ADOPT A STANDARD EMERGENCY PLAN FOR THE JOSEPH M. FARLEY,
EDWIN I. HATCH AND VOGTLE NUCLEAR PLANT SITES

Dear Ms. Quinn:

By letter dated August 31, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15246A045), Southern Nuclear Company (SNC) requested amendments to the licenses for the following plants: Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2, Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2, and Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 1, 2, 3 and 4, in order to adopt a SNC fleet-wide standard emergency plan (SEP) that includes site-specific emergency plan annexes.

Our initial review of the SNC SEP request focused on the proposed relocation of the joint information centers (JICs). Specifically, SNC proposes to locate the JICs for the Hatch and Vogtle sites to the corporate headquarters building of the Georgia Power Company in Atlanta, GA, and the JIC for the Farley site to the corporate headquarters building of the Alabama Power Company in Birmingham, AL. The JICs at the respective corporate headquarters buildings would serve as the official location for coordination and issuance of news announcements and responses to news media inquiries.

Following activation of the JIC in Atlanta or Birmingham, the respective public information director will evaluate the nature of the event. If it is determined that the event will be prolonged, is likely to escalate, or is likely to result in significant media attention, the public information director will direct that JIC operations move to the forward near-site location. In their submittal, SNC states the commitment to maintain the near-site media location, if needed, would continue to support the current functional arrangement and the proposed structure. In addition, one JIC staffing change is proposed: the duties of the Community Relations Coordinator have been allocated to other positions.

Enclosure 19 of the SNC's August 31, 2015 submittal contains letters of consultation and concurrence from the various State and county emergency response organizations. While these letters document a general concurrence with the changes proposed by SNC under the common emergency plan approach, they do not specifically acknowledge potential changes needed to offsite Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) plans to address the consolidation of the JICs as outlined in SNC's submittal. As such, to facilitate our continued review, we have requested SNC to specifically confirm with the appropriate off-site response organizations (OROs), their concurrence with the consolidation of JICs and their intent to revise their respective REP plans as appropriate. Also, SNC has been requested to identify any

additional changes under the proposed SNC SEP that may have an impact on the current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved REP plans and document concurrence by appropriate OROs on the proposed changes. I will forward all applicable information from SNC to FEMA upon receipt.

Per the Memorandum of Understanding between FEMA and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), contained in Section III.B (FEMA Review of Offsite Plans and Preparedness) to Appendix A to Title 44 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 353, I am requesting FEMA's review of the proposed specific changes potentially impacting ORO REP plans and that FEMA provide the NRC an evaluation of whether the changes would preclude offsite agencies from implementing their approved emergency plans.

As always, thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions regarding the specifics of the changes requested by SNC, or the NRC's initial evaluation of these proposed changes, please contact Richard Kinard at (301) 287-3768.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Joseph D. Anderson, Chief
Operating Reactor Licensing and Outreach Branch
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

cc: A. Coons, FEMA HQ

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Joseph D. Anderson, Chief
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Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

cc: Coons, FEMA

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